

Ways We Can Work Together

Stores play a very important role in the Food Stamp Program. They provide access to nutritious foods and can reach out to potential food stamp recipients. You can help support the Food Stamp Program by:

- Displaying free posters and brochures in your store.
- Offering healthy food choices and nutrition education materials to customers.
- Forming partnerships with local organizations to raise awareness about the Food Stamp Program.
- Contacting the local office that issues food stamp benefits to see how you can encourage low-income families to apply for benefits.



Information for Retailers

**Food Stamps
Make America Stronger**



Food Stamps Make America Stronger

Facts about the Food Stamp Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Stamp Program provides food for more than 17 million low-income people each day. This brochure provides information on the Program and the 145,000 stores that make it work.

Did you know?

- More than 50% of food stamp recipients are children. 10% of all recipients are elderly, age 60 or older.
- Non U.S. citizens and immigrants may be eligible to receive food stamp benefits.
- You can have a job and qualify for food stamp benefits if you meet income criteria.
- In 2002, the average monthly benefit was \$80 per person and \$186 per household.

Facts for Store Owners

Stores can participate in the Food Stamp Program for free. Most participating stores are small-to-medium sized groceries, convenience stores and supermarkets, however, specialty stores such as farmers' markets and bakeries can also participate. The majority of stores now accept food stamp benefits through an electronic debit card, which is often called an "EBT card." EBT cards are easy to use!

Food stamp dollars can help you build a customer base and generate economic activity in the community.

Did you know?

- In 2002, stores received more than \$18 billion in food stamp benefits.
- \$5 billion spent in food stamp benefits can grow into an additional \$9.2 billion of economic activity and create more than 80,000 jobs in the community.

- 1 out of 3 low-income families usually shop for food within one mile of where they live.
- USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers the Food Stamp Program for participating stores. Field Offices can answer any questions you have and help you understand the rules of the Program.

For more information on the Food Stamp Program visit www.fns.usda.gov/fsp.

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

To request a store application to participate in the Food Stamp Program, call 1-877-823-4369